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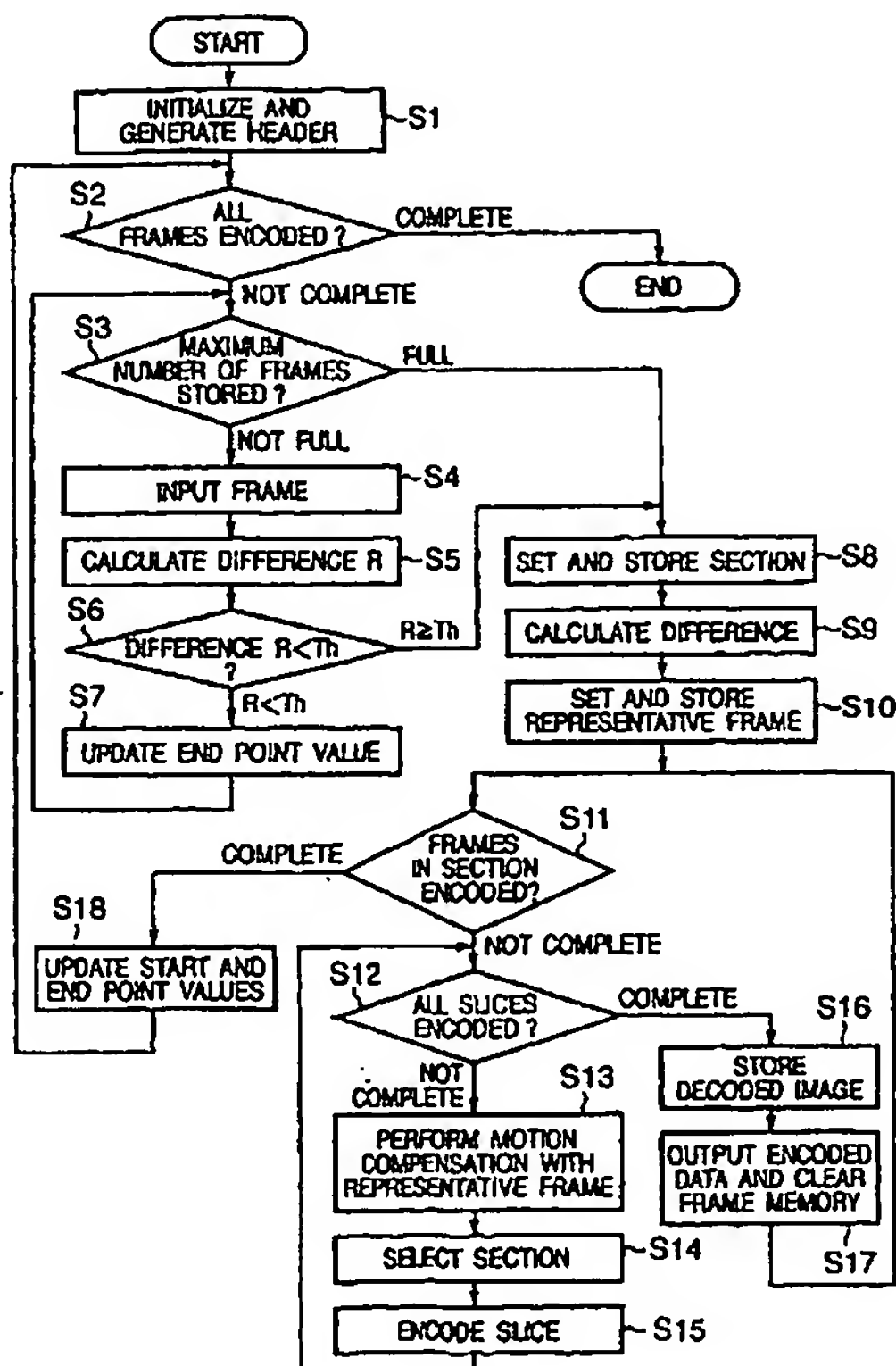
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(54) Title: ENCODING APPARATUS, ENCODING METHOD, DECODING APPARATUS, AND DECODING METHOD

(57) Abstract: ABSTRACT Frames are divided into a plurality of
sections on the basis of input images of the frames (S8). One rep-
resentative image that represents the image of each frame is set in
each of the sections (S10). One representative image to be referred
to is selected so as to encode an image of a frame of interest from
the representative images set for respective sections, and the image
of the frame of interest is encoded by motion compensation using
the images of the frames in the section that includes the selected
representative image (S13, S14, S15).



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